

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DOHA 00968 151253Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 121649

R 151035Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1815

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T DOHA 0968

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, QA, US

SUBJ: QATARI INTEREST IN INFORMATION ON F-5S; US ARMS POLICY
IN LOWER GULF

REF: STATE 220256, DOHA 0862, DOHA 0863

1. I ACCEPT DEPT'S JUDGMENT THAT IT BETTER TO CUT OFF DISCUSSION
OF F-5S WITH QATARIS AT THIS POINT SINCE EVENTUAL SALE CANNOT
RPT CANNOT BE CONSIDERED UNDER PRESENT POLICY GUIDELINES, AND
SINCE THERE APPEARS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ANY CHANGE IN POLICY.
I HOPE WE CAN GET SOME MILEAGE OUT OF THIS WITH CONGRESSIONAL
CRITICS OF MASSIVE U.S. SALES IN AREA--NOT ONLY DO WE REFUSE
TO SELL TO QATAR, BUT WE EVEN DENY IT OPPORTUNITY TO WINDOW
SHOP*

2. I INTEND TO DELAY CONVEYING THIS WORD TO SHAYKH HAMAD UNTIL
AFTER RAMADAN, ALTHOUGH I WONDER WHETHER IT ANY MORE DESIRABLE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 DOHA 00968 151253Z

ON FULL THAN EMPTY STOMACH. I WILL ALSO TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY

AFTER ID TO EXPLAIN THIS WHOLE MATTER TO THE AMIR. WITH BOTH THE AMIR AND SHAYKH HAMAD, I PLAN TO REITERATE IN DETAIL OUR LOWER GULF ARMS POLICY AND, UNLESS DEPT HAS OBJECTION, TO ILLUSTRATE BY TELLING THEM WITHOUT NAMING SPECIFIC RECIPIENT COUNTRIES ABOUT OUR CURRENT MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN LOWER GULF STATES, E.G. HELICOPTER SURVEY WITH POSSIBLE FOLLOW ON SALES, SUPPLY OF M-16S BUT DENIAL OF TOWS, ETC. I THINK WE OWE QATARIS THIS MUCH, BUT IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TO WHET THEIR APPETITES FOR OTHER MILITARY GOODIES. I'D BE PERFECTLY CONTENT IF WE NEVER SOLD QATARIS AS MUCH AS ONE BULLET. WE HAVE AVOIDED TAKING ANY INITIATIVES IN MILITARY SUPPLY FIELD HERE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

3. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT EXPECT AMIR OR SHAYKH HAMAD TO SAY SO DIRECTLY, I KNOW THEY WILL BE DISAPPOINTED BY OUR REFUSAL TO PROVIDE INFO RE F-5S. ALL EXPLANATIONS OF OUR LOWER GULF ARMS POLICY AND EXAMPLES OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION NOTWITHSTANDING, THEY WILL SEE PICTURE ELEMENTALLY, I.E. BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN MILITARY HARDWARE FOR SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS FOR KUWAIT, AND NOT EVEN A CATALOG FOR QATAR. THEY WILL SIMPLY NOT UNDERSTAND OUR REFUSAL NOT EVEN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WHAT MAY AMOUNT TO A SALE OF A "FEW PLANES FOR A FEW MILLIONS." THEY WILL SEE THIS, NOT SPECIFICALLY AS U.S. LACK OF INTEREST IN QATAR'S SECURITY, BUT AS CONFIRMATION OF WHAT THEY ALREADY BELIEVE IS U.S. LACK OF INTEREST IN QATAR IN GENERAL. WE AND QATARIS HAVE LIVED WITH THIS SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EMBASSY, AND CAN CONTINUE TO DO SO, ALTHOUGH WHAT GOQ REGARDS AS OUR BENIGN NEGLECT OF QATAR IS A PROBLEM IN OUR RELATIONS.

4. ON BROADER QUESTION OF U.S. TAKING INITIATIVE TO REGIONALIZE ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOWER GULF STATES WITHIN CONTEXT OF OUR ALREADY ESTABLISHED MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, I APPRECIATE ADDRESSEES' COMMENTS, AND RATIONALE OF THEIR NEGATIVE CONSENSUS. I SUPPOSE WE'RE TOO FAR ALONG WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN AND NOT FAR ENOUGH ALONG WITH LOWER GULF STATES TO ESTABLISH FRAMEWORK OF THIS KIND. HOWEVER, IF WE WAIT FOR INDIGENOUS INITIATIVE FOR REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL INCLUDE COORDINATED ARMS SUPPLY, THIS MAY COME ABOUT DAY AFTER SHAH RECOGNIZES GULF AS ARAB. I CONTINUE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 DOHA 00968 151253Z

TO BELIEVE THAT PRESENT LEVERAGE AVAILABLE TO USG AS PRIMARY ARMS SUPPLIER TO AREA AND DESIRED MILITARY PARTNER GIVES US THE INFLUENCE TO CATALYZE REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MAY ENABLE US TO REDUCE MAGNITUDE OF OUR ARMS SALES IN REGION. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT PRESSURES TO REDUCE OUR OVERALL ARMS SALES IN AREA AND WORLD WILL INTENSIFY, AND THERE SHOULD BE SOME WAY OF OUR GETTING AHEAD OF THIS GAME IN THIS AREA OF OUR LARGEST SALES.

PAGANELLI

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, POLICIES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DOHA00968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760348-0747
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760959/aaaabyllh.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 220256, 76 DOHA 862, 76 DOHA 863
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QATARI INTEREST IN INFORMATION ON F-5S; US ARMS POLICY IN LOWER GULF
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, QA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006